

Message Text

PAGE 01 OECD P 00002 111251Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 IO-15 ISO-00 OIC-04 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

TAR-02 AGR-20 STR-08 DODE-00 FMC-04 CG-00 COA-02

DLOS-06 DOTE-00 DRC-01 /180 W
----- 073900

R 111045Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 814

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OECD PARIS 26494

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, UNCTAD, OECD, UN

SUBJECT: MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT: OECD/MTC SPECIAL GROUP ON
CONTAINER TRANSPORT MEETING, OCT. 9

REFC STATE 193755

1. SUMMARY: SPECIAL GROUP MET OCT 9 TO COORDINATE GROUP B
POSITIONS FOR FORTHCOMING MEETING OF UNCTAD INTER-GOVERNMENTAL
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PAGE 02 OECD P 00002 111251Z

PREPARATORY GROUP (IPG) ON INTERNATIONAL INTERMODAL TRANSPORT
(GENEVA, OCT 29, NOV 2). DISCUSSION REVEALED CONTINUING
DEEP DIFFERENCES AMONG OECD COUNTRIES ON SUBSTANCE OF
POSSIBLE MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT CONVENTION BUT DID MAKE

START ON AGREED GUIDELINES FOR STUDIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY UNCTAD SECRETARIAT.

2. PRE-MEETING ACTIVITY: IN WEEK PRECEDING MEETING DELS OF US, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, AND N.Z., (AS PER PARAS QMA.II AND 1.C. REFTEL) ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN BROADER SUPPORT FOR JOINTLY- PREPARED DISCUSSION PAPER WHICH SETS OUT GENERAL PRINCIPLES ON WHICH MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT CONVENTION COULD BE BASED. DELS SUCCEEDED, WITH SOME GENERALIZING OF PARA 6 (RE STRICTNESS OF LIABILITY) TO ENLIST NORWAY, SWEDEN, AND DENMARK AS CO-SPONSORS, AND APER WAS CIRCULATED AS OECD DOC DAF/MTC/73.57. PRE-MEETING DISCUSSIONS ALSO RESULTED IN OBTAINING RELUCTANT MRS. B. BLOM OF SWEDEN AS CHAIRMAN FOR GROUP, AFTER NORWAY MADE IT CLEAR IT DID NOT ENDORSE ITS PROF SELVIG FOR JOB.

3. OCT.9 MEETING: GROUP MEETING ATTENDED BY UK, FRANCE, JAPAN, FRG, BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, NZ, EEC, SWEDEN, NORWAY, DENMARK, GREEC AND U.S. AT OPENING OF MEETING US REP (WEBB) OUTLINED U.S. VIEWS OF PROBLEM POSED BY INTERMODAL TRANSPORT DISCUSSION IN UNCTAD AND URGED GROUP TO TAKE UNIFIED POSITION BY INTRODUCING ABOVE- DESCRIBED COUNTRY DISCUSSION PAPER AT GENEVA MEETING TO SERVE AS PART OF GUIDELINES FOR SECRETARIAT STUDIES. WEBB NOTED THAT DISCUSSION PRINCIPLES, WHICH AVOID CTO(COMBINED TRANSPORT OPERATOR) CONCEPT, (WHICH HAD BEEN BASIC TO EARLIER TCM CONVENTION), WOULD ASSUAGE MUCH OF LDC CONCERN, WHICH BASED LARGELY ON THEIR FEAR OF DEVELOPED COUNTRY CTO DOMINATION OF THEIR TRANSPORT SYSTEMS.

4. IN ENSURING DISCUSSION, GREECE, AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND NZ GENERALLY SUPPORTED ABOVE APPROACH. FRG AND NETHERLANDS NOT UNEXPECTEDLY STRONGLY OPPOSED ON GROUNDS THAT A) DISCUSSION PAPER DID NOT REPRESENT CONSENSUS OF GROUP B VIEWS AND B) IT PREMATURE TO INTRODUCE LEGAL PRINCIPLES PAPER AT 1ST IPG MEETING. BOTH NETHERLANDS AND FRG SHOWED CONTINUING ATTACHMENT TO NETOWRK SYSTEM AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 03 OECD P 00002 111251Z

PRINCIPLES OF EARLIER DRAFT TCM CONVENTION. FRANCE, UK, AND BELGIUM SUPPORTED NETHERLANDS-FRG VIEWS IN MORE MODERATE TERMS. JAPAN REMAINED LARGELY SILENT, BUT IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS EXPRESSED STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT SINGLE LIABILITY SYSTEM.

. SELVIG TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF LUNCH BREAK TO PREPARE BRIEF STUDIES GUIDELINES PAPER WITH HEADINGS ON DOCUMENTARY PROBLEMS, INSURANCE PROBLEMS, LIABILITY PROBLEMS AND SCOPE- OF-APPLICATION PROBLEMS. GROUP INCLUDING U.S. FOUND SELVIG APPROACH, IN SOME INSTANCES WITH MODIFICATIONS, GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE, AND AGREED TO USE IT AS BASIS FOR POSSIBLE GROUP

B SUBMISSION TO IPG. IT AGREED THAT MEMBERS WISHING TO MAKE
COMMENTS SHOULD SUBMIT THEM TO MRS. BLOM AND GROUP WILL
CONSIDER POSSIBLE REVISIONS AT 1ST GROUP B MEETING
MONDAY OCTOBER 29.

6. NO DECISION TAKEN ON GROUP B COORDINATOR FOR IPG MEETING.
BROWN

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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BRUSSELS
CONN
CANBERRA
THE HAGUE
LONDON
OSLO

OTTAWA
STOCKHOLM
TOKYO
WELLINGTON
GENEVA

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